

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ITF-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-10 H-02

SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 SY-05 INSE-00 AID-05 L-02

SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /090 W

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P R 051441Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0826

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UK, VS, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND
PERSONNEL IN LONDON

REF: (A) LONDON 6701 (B) STATE 104017 (C) LONDON 6676

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1. FIRST SECRETARY, PHAM HUY BACH, CALLED AT EMBASSY

MAY 5 TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR 8 MEMBERS OF GVN EMBASSY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS (25 IN ALL) FOR "IMMIGRATION TO THE USA AS REFUGEES FROM COMMUNISM". LIST BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. WE QUOTED RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS, REF. B, IN RESPONSE TO BACH'S REQUEST. WE AGREED TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIS LIST AND TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED REF. B IN WRITING. WE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT PAROLE WILL BE GRANTED ONLY WHERE IT IS CLEAR THAT NO OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE EXISTS AND THAT IN LIGHT OF HMG POLICY SET OUT IN REF. C IT WOULD APOPEAR THAT MEMBERS OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC STAFF COULD RECEIVE ASYLUM IN UK - THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE "A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE".

2. BACH SAID THAT HE IS SURE ALL OF PERSONS ON LIST WISH STRONGLY TO GO TO U.S. IN MOST CASES MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES FROM SAIGON HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES OR ON GUAM AS REFUGEES. OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE FAMILIES TOGETHER IN THE UNITED STATES. BACH SAID SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT HMG HAS NOT YET RECOGNIZED PRG. AS A RESULT, ALL MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC STAFF CONTINUE TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN UK AND CANNOT, FOR THE MOMENT, APPLY FOR ASYLUM HERE. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT A QUICK APPLICATION FOR PAROLE BEFORE PRG IS RECOGNIZED MIGHT RESULT IN EARLY VISA FOR U.S. BEFORE "REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE" EMERGES. WE DISABUSED HIM OF THIS IDEA.

3. BACH REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR PHAM DANG LAM DECIDED LAST FRIDAY TO CLOSE EMBASSY HERE. ALL EMBASSY BUILDINGS BANK ACCOUNTS, VEHICLES, ETC., WERE TURNED OVER TO VICE-MARSHALL OF UK DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON SATURDAY, MAY 3. AMBASSADOR LAM DEPARTS FOR PARIS TODAY TO TAKE RESIDENCE THERE. BACH SAID THAT HMG HAD INITIALLY NOT WANTED TO TAKE OVER GVN ASSETS IN UK BUT LAM SAID THAT HE WOULD LEAVE AND LOCK ALL DOORS. HE WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE ASSETS ANY LONGER. HMG ACCEPTED AT THAT POINT.

RICHARDSON
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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